

Council Members & Staff

Consumer Members

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Agency Members

Jayne Browning Division of Health	Tec Chapman (ad hoc) Division of Mental Retardation & Developmental Disabilities	Wendy Dillender (ad hoc) Division of Senior Services
John Harper (ad hoc) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation	Vicki Fry (ad hoc) Division of Medical Services	Charlie Taylor (ad hoc) Division of Special Ed

Other Members

Shawn de Loyola (ad hoc) Protection & Advocacy Services	Vim Horn University Center of Excellence	Vicki McCarrell MACDDS/SB 40 Board
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Council Staff

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General Information

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Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities Annual Program Performance Report

2006

Let People with Developmental Disabilities Live Real Lives!

The Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities (MPC) is a 23-member council appointed by the Governor and funded by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. Our purpose is to promote systems change for people with developmental disabilities through involving persons with developmental disabilities and their families in the policy making process. Our mandate is to advocate for the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all aspects of community living.

The Council's Mission is "To assist the community to include all people with developmental disabilities in every aspect of life." The council believes that mission will be achieved when people with developmental disabilities:

- Make informed choices about where they live, work, play and worship;
- Receive individual and family supports which are flexible, based on need, and provided in a culturally-sensitive manner;
- Have the opportunity to engage in productive employment and meaningful retirement;
- Experience continued growth toward their full potential;
- Live in homes with the availability of individualized supports;
- Are treated with dignity and respect;
- Attend school with their peers in regular classrooms in neighborhood schools, and
- Are members of powerful networks made up of individuals, parents and family members.

The council also believes that individuals, parents and family members are the most powerful forces in forging a responsive and flexible support network for people with developmental disabilities.

What is a Developmental Disability?

Developmental Disabilities are physical or mental impairments that begin before age 22 and alter or substantially inhibit a person's capacity to do at least three of the following:

- Take care of themselves (dress, bathe, eat, or other daily tasks)
- Walk/move around
- Earn and manage an income
- Communicate clearly
- Learn
- Live on their own

Initiatives & Outcomes:		Quality Assurance
Initiative	Outcome	
Partners in Policymaking is an innovative leadership training program that teaches self-advocates and family members of young children with developmental disabilities to be community leaders. The curriculum is designed to provide information, training, resources and skill building to enable participants to obtain the best available services for themselves and others.	274 individuals have graduated from 12 MPC Partners classes. Graduates are involved in many systems change efforts and organizations. 2005 graduates coordinated walks that raised thousands of dollars for Autism Awareness, successfully advocated for an accessible school playground, published their family story, and educated individuals about their right to vote.	
The Missouri Youth Leadership Forum is a unique career leadership-training program for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities. MYLF helps young people to cultivate leadership, citizenship, and social skills. MPC partners with other organizations to support MYLF.	40 youth have been trained in the three years that MPC has engaged in this project. Some students have gone on to participate in additional trainings, legislative advocacy and hold leadership positions within their school government and extra-curricular activities. Students work to make changes for other students with disabilities.	
MPC initiated investment in MO's self-advocacy organization to create a self-directed, supportive community of adults who have DD. People First is a "self-advocacy" and "self-help" organization that empowers self-advocates to speak for themselves, make decisions and carry out plans.	There are over 44 chapters and over 1,000 members across the State. Members have provided testimony regarding legislation and closure of habilitation centers; developed a position statement on abuse/neglect; taught the My Voice/My Choice curriculum to self-advocates, and conducted an annual conference.	
The multi-year Habilitation Center Transition Technical Assistance Project provided support for an individual with experience in other states in moving individuals with the most complex needs from institutional to community settings, to provide TA to the state transition team at one or more of the habilitation centers.	TA was provided to move up to 50 individuals with very complex needs to individualized community settings. 20 individuals have been transitioned and ongoing support will increase this number. Participants and those working with them have indicated that the quality of life has improved with the transition.	
The MO Developmental Disabilities Resource Center provides free information about disabilities and related topics and provides connections to community resources. Self-advocates and families report that information and support are the things they need most and the DDRC offers both. The Center also includes a support network called Sharing Our Strengths (SOS) for families, self-advocates and professionals. MPC partners with the UCE to offer this network based on the need expressed by families to decrease stress and isolation, increase knowledge and better utilize resources.	In FY '06, the DDRC had 872 requests for information. Users reported that the DDRC helped them be more informed and increased their confidence that they can handle their situations. 133 individuals received supports through the SOS program and 68 people received mentor training. Participants report that this program helped them feel less alone in handling their challenges dealing with issues of disability and many reach out to other individuals or families in appreciation.	
MPC is partnering with UMKC, SB40 Boards, MRDD and others to support the College of Direct Support . This is a 3-year pilot project that uses a web-based curriculum to train direct support workers. It is anticipated that this project will lead to more effective recruitment and retention methods and provide a pool of more quality support staff, leading to certification standards and the development of a career path for DSPs.	Over 300 learners who may serve as many as 1100 individuals with disabilities are enrolled in this program. Staff from the participating pilot agencies worked together to build in annotations to meet MO's certification and licensing standards. Partners developed a MO certification program and are considering seeking permanent funding and state-wide use and credentialing. Policymakers have also introduced the program to state facilities.	

Initiatives & Outcomes:		Education
Initiative	Outcome	
MPC is supporting three service agencies to implement Mentoring Programs for high school students transitioning to vocational programs, post-secondary education, or work settings. These projects focus on building sustainable programs that will reverse the high unemployment trends for individuals with DD.	28 students from the three projects have been assigned mentors and practiced job skills. Students complete interest inventories, develop resumes and participate in job shadowing activities as well as gain real work experiences and explore education opportunities and learn to navigate the service systems prior to graduation.	
The Missouri Planning Council partnered with others to bring an Independence Plus Grant to Missouri. A stakeholders group met with state policymakers and discussed evidenced-based practices from across the country to identify options that would increase the pilot participants' control over their lives and increase satisfaction with state systems. A pilot project allowed a small group of individuals to test several options and report their experiences to policymakers.	27 pilot participants tested practices that would expand self-directed support options. The findings of this project influenced the Division of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities to amend their community support and comprehensive waivers to include support brokers and community supports. Findings have been shared with others to increase self-determination and a major training project will be sponsored in the future to increase understanding and usage of available self-direction options.	
Initiatives & Outcomes:		Employment
Initiative	Outcome	
Missouri Employment and Diversity Collaborative is a project to develop and implement training for state agency human resources officers and other supervisory management-level individuals on hiring and supporting individuals with disabilities. This CFI evolved from findings and recommendations of a 2005 Employment CFI and a follow-up Summit that identified a lack of understanding of best practice in assistive technology and supports as major barriers in employment of individuals with DD.	During the initial pilot training of the developed curriculum, Human Resource Officers praised the training and asked that it be placed in an on-line format. Additionally, training courses will be held but, in the future, information will be expanded to be appropriate for small businesses as well as state agencies. Two trainings are planned for Fall '07 but the curriculum will also be shared in an on-line, interactive format to increase accessibility and use.	

FY 06 DDA Expenditures

The Missouri Planning Council, like all DD Councils throughout the United States and its territories, is mandated to engage in planning, advocacy, and capacity-building efforts contributing to individuals with developmental disabilities leading more self-determined, inclusive, and productive lives in their community. The MPC releases grants or "Call for Investments (CFIs)" in various areas of emphasis in order to affect systems change leading to the inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities.

